

MISCELLANY

The Black-bird.

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
O'er the war of the rebellion, and the things that were before—
While I sat absorbed in thinking—brandy cock-tails slowly drinking,
Suddenly I saw a blinking, one-eyed figure at my door—
Saw a one-eyed, winking, blinking figure at my chamber door,
Standing there, and nothing more.

Ah! I never shall forget it, how in glancing round I met it,
And I ever shall regret it, that I looked toward that door;
For I saw a monstrous figure, like a giant, only bigger,
And there stood a big buck nigger, leaning up against my door—
Stood a powerful big buck nigger, with his back against my door—
Leaning there, and nothing more.

Straight into the fire-place spying, where my ham and eggs were frying,
I beheld the poker lying, near the hearth, upon the floor;
Then with most determined vigor, straight I hurled it at the nigger;
But so quick was that big nigger, that it missed and struck the floor—
Missed the nigger's head completely, and fell harmless on the floor—
Struck his heel, and nothing more.

Back into the fire-place looking, where my ham and eggs were cooking,
Shaking, quaking—as no mortal ever shook or quaked before—
I then heard this ugly sinner mutter but these words, "Some dinner!"
'Twas the only word he'd spoken—'twas the only word, I'm sure—
When I picked up pluck and answered, "I shall feed you nevermore."
This I said, and nothing more.

Then his impudence beginning, and his gums exposed in grinning,
With a smile by no means winning, did he view me from the door;
And he coolly said, "Your treat, man—I'll ne'er go into the street, man;
Till I get something to eat, man, I shall never leave your door;
I shall never quit your chamber, though you beat me till I roar,
Never leave you—nevermore!"

Then, toward the fire-place marching, where my coffee was a parching,
Boldly stalked the saucy nigger, boldly stalked across the floor;
Never made the slightest bow, sir—then I knew there'd be a row, sir,
For I made a solemn vow, sir, he should go back to the door;
Then I kicked him from my chamber, and he went back to the door;
Leaned against it—nothing more.

Then this black-bird, for awhile, sir, really did cause me to smile, sir,
Though a ravenous, rabid, hungry look his dusky visage bore;
"Though," said I, "thou art a freedman, thou hast gone so much to seed, man,
That I'll give a little feed, man, as you seem to be so poor,
Provided you will work for me a half an hour or more."
Quoth the nigger, "Nevermore."

Much I marvelled this ungainly nigger should refuse so plainly
To do a little job, 'twould take half an hour or more—
For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being
Should refuse to labor, seeing that he was so blasted poor—
Should refuse to earn a dinner he saw cooking from my door—
Though he ate one "nevermore!"

There I sat engaged in musing what he meant by thus refusing,
And I then began abusing this big nigger at my door.
"Sure," said I, "you must be crazy, seeing you're so cursed lazy—
So confounded awful lazy as to want to work no more—
Will you ever work for wages—tell me, tell me, I implore?"
Quoth the nigger, "Nevermore!"

"Nigger," said I, "horrid demon—nigger still, if slave or freeman—
Think again before you answer, this one question, I implore:
Have you yet no sense of feeling—do you mean to live by stealing,
Or by working and fair dealing?—tell me, tell me, I implore,
On your honor as a nigger—will you labor as before?"
Quoth the nigger, "Nevermore!"

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so flatly spoken,
"Doubtless," said I, "this big nigger would consume enough for four,
When on some spacious rice plantation, he would out-eat all creation—
Never made a calculation how much cash it cost, I'm sure,
For his master bought the victuals in the good old days of yore,
Now, he'll feed you "nevermore!"

"Nigger!" said I, "thing of evil! quit my room—go to the devil—
Or if you'll consent to work, I'll bring your supper to the door,
Tell me truly, I conjure you, for the last time, I implore?"
Quoth the nigger, "Nevermore!"

"Be that word our sign of parting, nigger man," I cried, upstarting—
"Get thee back to where thou camest from—let me see your face no more;
Join the army—go to Texas—never come back here to vex us—
Ne'er return again to vex us—never let us see you more;
Take your gaze from off my meat, and take your carcass from my door!"
Quoth the nigger, "Nevermore!"

And the nigger still is standing in my entry on the landing,
A very pretty burly picture, with his back against my door,
And his eyes are ever spying at my ham as it is frying,
And my poker still is lying near my hand upon the floor,
But my victuals to the "fly-trap" of that nigger by my door,
Shall be effed, "Nevermore!"
[New York Mercury.]

Edinburgh.

There is nothing of which the Scotch are so jealous as of the fame of their capital. Let a stranger take care how he exercises his talents for criticism at the expense of their beautiful city. It is amusing to observe the confident tone in which they allude to its charms, the same calm superiority of manner with which we Bostonians descant upon the "Hub." I met a friend, a native, who escorted me about with an air which said, plainly, "Don't be afraid of praising it too highly, nothing you could say would be taken for flattery. I am accustomed to the ecstasy of travelers." It can be readily imagined that such an enthusiast would turn green with astonishment on finding me insensible to its beauties, as indeed he did, and devoted the remaining two days of my stay to my instruction in Edinburgh life and morals! It is something between a city like London and a country town. It has the advantages of one and the simplicity of the other. That stern law of caste, the barriers of which no man dares break down in London, is very feeble in Edinburgh. A man may act independently there, may keep servants or not, may roll in his carriage or walk, may actually dress out of fashion, and yet keep his social position. Many families occupy but one story of a house, so that a single building may be hired or owned by four or five individuals. Truly they must be kind-hearted and reasonable to discuss their various fortunes and settle family jars under one another's noses. No one seems afraid of his neighbor; the "School for Scandal" does not flourish in Edinburgh, and when people quit the city for the holidays, the houses are left without inmates and simply locked. This is common in America, but a Londoner would think you mad to suggest such a thing.

There is a sense of equality among the Scotch which the English cannot understand, and I will give an example by quoting from an English paper. "However low his class, the rough in Edinburgh will always listen quietly and reply gravely, never gibes without a reason, and never puts on that brutally sullen manner with which an Englishman of the same kind cloaks the *mauvaise honte* which comes of inferiority. The sense of equality, though not so externally patent as in France, is just as strong, and rather more real, the reverence for money being distinctly less. Though servants in Scotland submit to a discipline which would drive servants in England frantic, and the social interior always gives way, say for example, in a crowd, to a social superior, there is a self-assertion about them, and a dislike of that condescending, half satirical manner which makes educated Englishmen so hated in all countries but their own, and in their own, keeps classes so terribly apart. A Scotch cabby, for example, can converse—a thing no Englishman of the lower class ever attempts—and in Edinburgh a tradesman of the lowest order, though far more anxious for custom than a Londoner, talks with his eyes on yours, and without an eternal *sirring*.

The Englishman is brutal and sullen, because his ambition and hope are dead. His position in life is fixed, and he bears an intense hatred for the social superiors who have fixed it for him. A low Englishman always acts as if you were about to crush or abuse him, and he was determined to forestall you, and the servants cringe and creep about for a penny in a way that is indescribably disgusting. Nothing of this is seen in Scotland. The peasant and workman are cheerful and polite, because the influence of caste does not weigh upon them, nor the influence of wealth. As the barriers between classes are broken down, the lower classes rise in the scale of manhood. In this last respect France and Scotland bear some resemblance to America, but England dreads it, and hence the brutality of her lower orders.

[Correspondence Boston Courier.]

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Oct 25 1mo
The friends of Dr. A. N. TALLEY nominate him as a candidate for Mayor at the ensuing election in April next. Nov 2 *

For Congress.

Dr. R. C. GRIFFIN, of Edgefield, is announced as a candidate for CONGRESS from the Third Congressional District, composed of the Districts of Abbeville, Edgefield, Newberry, Fairfield, Lexington, Richland and Orangeburg. Oct 28 7*

For District Judge.

The friends of W. B. JOHNSTON, Esq., who has so efficiently filled the office of Magistrate for the District of Richland, respectfully recommend him to the Legislature as a suitable gentleman to fill the new office created by the State Convention. He is well known throughout the State, and for the past eight months has filled a judicial station with the utmost satisfaction to all parties. MEMBERS OF THE BAR.
Oct 28

For Congress.

The friends of Gen. SAMUEL MCGOWAN announce him as a Candidate for the United States Congress from the Third Congressional District, embracing the Districts of Orangeburg, Edgefield, Abbeville, Newberry, Lexington, Richland and Fairfield. Oct 27

For State Treasurer.

The friends of Dr. R. W. GIBBES respectfully nominate him to the Legislature for this office. His well known business character, energy and ability eminently recommend him. He has for many years served the State efficiently in various capacities, and now he needs her support. Oct 22

For Congress.

We are authorized to announce JAMES FARROW, Esq., of Spartanburg, as a candidate to represent, in the Congress of the United States, the Fourth Congressional District, comprising the Districts of Anderson, Pickens, Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, Union, York and Chester. Sept 30

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LETTER FROM MR. BARNUM.
NEW YORK, July 14, 1865.
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The safe you made for me some time ago was in the office of the Museum, on the second floor, back part of the building, and in the hottest of the fire.

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